

VVWRA's RNG Program Wins Global Water Award



The state-of-the-art co-digestion and biogas upgrading facility at Victor Valley Wastewater Reclamation Authority has won the Global Water Award for Wastewater Project of the Year. The announcement was made May 9th during an award ceremony in Berlin, Germany. The project is a public-private partnership between VVWRA, SoCal Biomethane, a subsidiary of Anaergia Inc. and Southwest Gas. The facility collects methane from the co-digestion of food waste and municipal sewage and converts it into renewable natural gas (RNG). The project, which was commissioned in 2022, treats 235,000 tons a year of food waste and biosolids collecting 320,000 Mmbtu of biomethane which is converted into RNG. The RNG is then injected into a Southwest Gas pipeline for commercial distribution. It is North America's largest privately financed co-digestion-to-biomethane project for pipeline injection at a wastewater treatment plant.

By co-digesting off-site waste, the plant makes VVWRA a regional champion for waste reduction even beyond its own wastewater responsibilities. The renewable disposal of food waste has become

increasingly in demand with the passage of California's SB 1383 which requires 75% of organic materials like food waste be diverted from landfills.

"We are deeply honored to receive this international



recognition for the innovative work we are doing with our partners", said VVWRA General Manager Darron Poulsen. "The RNG project at VVWRA is a showcase of how public agencies, utilities and private business can come together to help resolve significant environmental challenges." "I also want to salute our staff for their hard work in making this project a success", said Poulsen.

Continued on page 2



Page 2

VWRA's RNG Program Wins Global Water Award cont.

"For several decades Anaergia has been helping cities, utilities and industries decarbonize by converting their waste into carbon-negative fuel and diverting organics from landfill disposal", said Andrew Benedek, Anaergia's Chairman and CEO. "Our facilities help reduce methane emissions at scale and make net zero possible around the globe every day."



Master of ceremony Claire McCollum announcing VWRA's win for Wastewater Project of the Year at the Global Water Awards in Berlin, Germany..

Established in 2006 by Global Water Intelligence, the Global Water Awards recognize the most important achievements in the international water industry within several categories, and reward those initiatives in the water, wastewater and desalination sectors that are moving the industry forward through improved operating performance, innovative technology adoption and sustainable financial models. Each year, the coveted Global Water Awards are presented at the Global Water Summit, the major business conference for the water industry worldwide. VWRA competed against projects from Egypt, China, and Saudi Arabia.

ABC7 News Reports on VWRA RNG Project

VWRA's Renewable Natural Gas Project was recently featured in a news segment on ABC7 in Los Angeles. ABC7 news anchor and reporter Phillip Palmer toured the RNG facility and interviewed VWRA General Manager Darron Poulsen as well as Anaergia representative John Hutson. The segment took a closer look at how VWRA's RNG facility is providing...cont. Page 4.



VWRA GM Darron Poulsen being interviewed by ABC7 reporter Phillip Palmer.



The Purple Pipe is a newsletter published by the Victor Valley Wastewater Reclamation Authority. All rights reserved. © 2023 info@vwra.com 20111 Shay Rd, Victorville, CA 92394

VWRA Board of Commissioners

- Scott Nassif - Town of Apple Valley
- Larry Bird - City of Hesperia
- Paul Cook - SB CSA 64 & 42
- Debra Jones - City of Victorville



Around the plant

Congratulations!



Lead Operator Kalin Westover has been promoted to Operations Supervisor.



Operator Lucas Wilkens has been promoted to Lead Operator.



E & I Technician Craig Taylor earned his Grade 3 Electrical and Instrumentation Technologist certificate.

Checking out the local sites!



VWRA GM Darron Poulsen took time to visit a local wastewater plant during his recent Alaska vacation.

Poulsen named to VVC Foundation Board



VWRA General Manager Darron Poulsen has been elected to the Victor Valley College Foundation Board of Directors. Poulsen is a VVC graduate and recently was named to the VVC Alumni Hall of Fame. The VVC Foundation was founded in 1975 and provides scholarships for local students.

Welcome to VWRA!



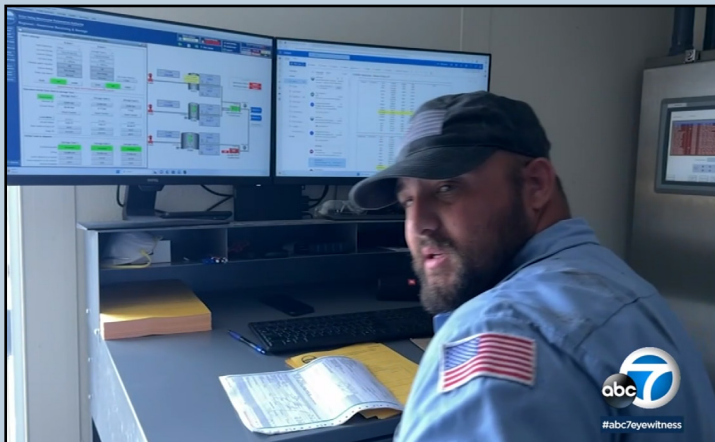
Jordan Rodriguez
E & I Intern



ABC7 reports on VWRA

Continued from ABC News story on page 2

...green renewable energy while helping agencies and companies comply with state law that requires them to divert 75% of organic waste away from landfills by 2025. The technology being used at VWRA is being replicated at other wastewater facilities around the state. Monterey One Water in Monterey County recently signed an agreement with Anaergia to build a similar facility at their wastewater plant. The biogas produced at their facility will be used to generate electricity.



Screenshot of ADM Attendant Andrei Davis using SCADA to monitor the delivery of slurried food waste.



ABC7 reporter Phillip Palmer does a stand up report from the top of digester 5 at VWRA.



Screenshot of VWRA's David Wylie and Hillary Chavez outside the VWRA administration building.

What is ADM? ADM stands for **anaerobically digestible material. ADM can be almost any organic waste. At VWRA, it refers to food waste from manufacturers of beer, soda, dog food and more.*

New VWWRACA.gov website address improves cyber security

VWRA has a new Address...a new website address that is. The VWRA.com website is now VWWRACA.gov to reflect both our location in California and that we are a government agency. In addition, all VWRA email addresses have changed to @vwwraca.gov.





CWEA/DAMS

New Board Sworn-in at Annual Luncheon



The new board of directors for the CWEA Desert and Mountain Section was sworn-in during a luncheon in Silver Lakes. (l-r, Alex Creason , Helendale CSD, Brandon Ricksecker, Crestline Sanitation, Bill Kuhlman, Helendale CSD, David Wylie, VVWRA, Sparky Kale, Victorville, Kristi Casteel, VVWRA, Daniel Peralta, Woodard and Curran, Darron Poulsen, VVWRA, Mike Medina, VVWRA, Ron Scriven, Crestline Sanitation, George Lopez, Haaker, Latif Laari, VVWRA.



mark your calendar!

Upcoming Events

Collections Day

July 19th

Apple Valley Conference Center

Vendor Fair and Training

September 13th (tentative)

San Moritz Lodge, Crestline

Awards and Holiday Banquet

December 1st

Silver Lakes Clubhouse





Core Value Awards

Under the leadership of General Manager Darron Poulsen, VWRA operates based on a set of three core values: collaboration, dedication and integrity. VWRA staff strives to incorporate these values in everything we do. Every year three employees are recognized for their efforts to encompass a specific core value. Here are the 2023 award winners.

Collaboration

*Xiwei Wang
Accounting Supervisor*



Dedication

*David Wylie
Safety/Communications Officer*

Integrity

*Mauricio Marin
E & I Lead*





Community Outreach



HD Leadership Tour

VWRA General Manager Darron Poulsen leads a plant tour for the Leadership HD class from the Greater High Desert Chamber of Commerce. Leadership HD is an interactive program that provides a behind-the-scenes view of the issues that impact the region's economic prosperity and quality of life, while developing and refining individual skills to better serve in leadership roles.



SVL Fair

VWRA's Kristi Casteel chats with a father and son at the 9th annual Spring Valley Lake Water Conservation Fair.



VVC Job Fair

VWRA's David Wylie talks with prospective job applicants about career opportunities in the wastewater industry during the Victor Valley College Community Job Fair.

Photo credit: Andrew Caravella/Victor Valley College



MWA Fair

VWRA's David Wylie does an on-air interview with Y-102 radio personality Coleen Quinn at the Mojave Water Agency Conservation Fair.



The Back Side...

Vector Factor!



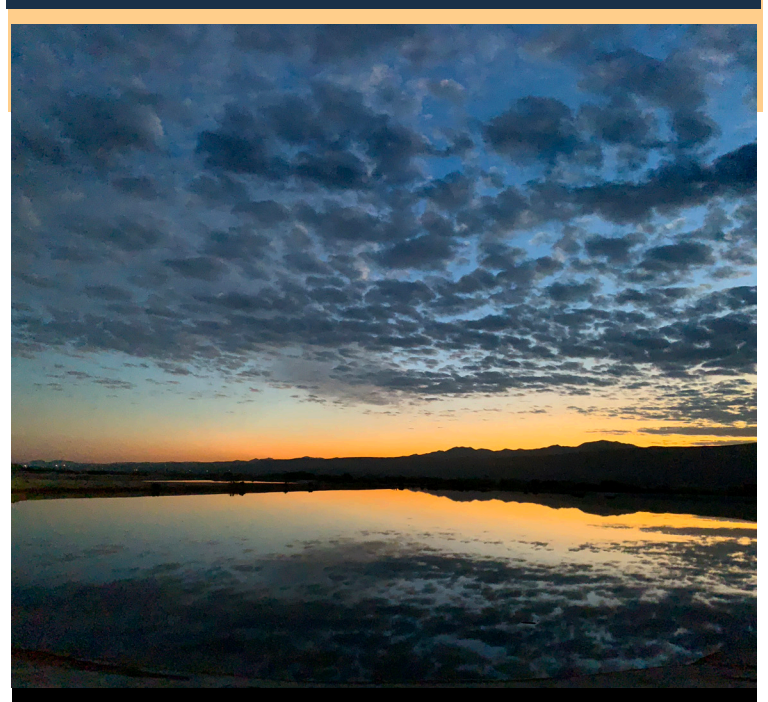
VVWRA staff take a first look at our new vector truck. Vector 2100i truck will be used to clean and service sewer pipelines. It is essentially a giant vacuum on wheels. It is able to pull water and debris out of inaccessible areas. It also features 1000' of high powered water hose for jetting out clogged lines.

PP at Disneyland!



The Purple Pipe is especially popular with the younger generation. These teen's took a break from their recent trip to Disneyland to catch up on the latest news from VVWRA.

Stunning Sunrise!



Operator Moises Castro captured this stunning photo one beautiful morning at our drying beds.